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ABSTRACT

One of a series of social studies units designed to develop the reading and writing skills of low achievers, this student activity book focuses on the theme of political systems and beliefs. The unit can be used for high school classes, individual study in alternative and continuing high schools, and adult education classes. Following an introduction to political systems, the unit is divided into sections on communism, fascism, Adolph Hitler, socialism, and capitalism. Each section contains a short reading which places the political system in its historical context. Vocabulary and skill in distinguishing sounds are stressed throughout. An appendix contains supplementary readings and comprehension exercises on the Russian Revolution and Mussolini, and a comparison of the different political systems. (LP)

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"ISMS" THEME

SP 015 492

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VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

[redacted]

Theme 2 - ISMS

WHAT IS A POLITICAL SYSTEM?

A. Sounds Introduced
   1. would - ould
   2. yes - y

B. Vocabulary

1. parcel	3. government	5. determine
2. population	4. country	6. clan

Have you ever considered what it would be like in our world if we had no laws or rules? Do you think man would be able to exist without rules? What are some things that could happen if all our laws and rules were taken away. How and why did laws and rules begin?

It is difficult to say. In some ways, it is hard to determine how man lived thousands of years ago. But let's try to put ourselves back in the days of the caveman. Do you think they would need many laws? Probably not. There were so few men and women that everyone could do their own things. You could go for weeks and months without seeing anyone except members of your family or clan. These people probably had rules among themselves but did not expect other people to follow them. So why should we have so many rules and laws today?

Well, as you know, the number of men and women increased as time passed. In a very small way, the world started to become crowded.

People from different areas of the world started to meet each other in their travels. In some cases, these people did not get along with each other. They each had different sets of rules and each group said their rules were correct. How did these early people try to solve this problem?

We do not have an answer, but it is likely that some of the people argued and even killed each other. However, most people probably claimed a parcel of land and called it their own. Today, we would call this parcel of land a state or even a country. Once the people claimed the land, they told other people that if they entered their land, they would have to follow their rules and laws or be punished. In many cases, they also chose people to be their leaders.

Without really trying, these early people had set up something that we today call a government or a political system. The government or political system represents the leadership and enforces the rules and laws of the area. With more and more population, a political system became necessary to protect the rights of each person.

As you may know, we still have and need political systems in most parts of the world today. However, like in the past, the thinking of the leadership of countries varies greatly. In some cases, the political system gave the individual person very little freedom. In other parts of the world, people were given much more choice and they could have more voice in running their country. Can you think of some differences in governments and political systems that you have already studied or read about?

In this unit, we will read about the four major political systems in the world today. They are: Communism, Fascism, Socialism and Capitalism. Now can you figure out why we call this unit the "ISMS" unit?

COMMUNISM

A. Sounds Introduced

1. clean - ean
2. right - ight
3. boat - oat

B. Vocabulary

1. examine
2. journalist
3. radical
4. economic
5. concept
6. dominant
7. scapegoat
8. society
9. distraction
10. atheist
11. tsar
12. subdivided
13. influence
14. trust
15. insane
16. farsighted
17. corrupt
18. reform
19. dismissed
20. aristocracy
21. civil war
22. dwindled
23. concessions
24. demean
25. heir
26. exiled
27. shrewd
28. insight
29. industrialized
30. research
31. conformity
32. censorship
33. fatal

The first political system we are going to study is called Communism. One reads about Communism and communistic countries in the paper every day. The word is a very common part of the American vocabulary. But how many of us really know what Communism means and what it stands for? The dictionary defines Communism as "any system of social organization in which goods are held in common....." However, this statement is much too simple. Communism is really a record of history, a picture of society and the world. It attempts to solve many of the troubles that mankind has had for years.

The right thing to do at this point is to examine some of the ideas of Karl Marx, who is known as the "Father of Communism." Karl Marx was born in Prussia in 1818. He was a journalist who had many radical ideas about society, and government. These writings made him so unpopular in his own country, that he was forced to leave. By 1848, Marx had written a book explaining his ideas. The book was called DAS KAPITAL. In his book, Marx states that all of history was and is determined by economic forces.

What does this last statement mean? It simply means that those people who have the most money control the state or country. According to Marx, government throughout history has been unfair to the public. The people who really made the choices were the wealthy individuals with all the money and economic power. As Marx saw it, the wealthy people were the ruling class and the rest were simply the ruled. The poor people were always the scapegoats. As Marx thumbed through the pages of history, he saw this concept happening over and over again. He continued to see government as merely an instrument of the dominant economic class. This idea is known as "historical materialism".

To put it more simply, Marx saw two groups in the history of the world. The "haves" and the "have nots". So how did he propose to change this trend in history? Marx claimed that he might not have to do anything. The people would eventually solve the problem. According to Marx, as the "have nots" grew and grew in numbers, they would take over the "haves". Then everyone would be in the same boat. What would happen then? Well, according to Marx, the goods of society would be divided up evenly. There would be no private ownership of property. The world would become a classless society where everyone would in effect be equal. What do you think of this idea? Do you ever think we might have a classless society?

Let's look at some other ideas that Marx proposed and that eventually became Communist belief. We've already seen that there will be no private ownership, and no classes of people or state. In addition, each person is supposed to contribute according to his ability and he will receive according to his needs. Communists also do not believe in God. They feel God is simply a distraction to the people. People who do not believe in a God or supreme being are called atheists.

As you may be able to see, many of these ideas are not very realistic. Can you think of any society now or in the past that is or was totally classless? In this type of society everyone would have to be absolutely equal. It is also difficult to imagine people not being able to own anything for themselves.

Nevertheless, many people read DAS KAPITAL and believed that the writings of Karl Marx were right on target. The next question may be how were his ideas changed from thoughts into practice within a state. To find this answer, we must examine an event called the Russian Revolution.

For many years, the country of Russia was ruled by the Romanov family. Their ruler or head of state was called a tsar. Like any other country, Russia had its ups and downs. But by the early 1900's Russia found herself in a lot of trouble. There were many reasons for her problems. In the first place, there was shortage of land. The peasant's land had been subdivided so much that their holdings were becoming very small. Secondly, by 1914, Russia was involved in World War I. Even though the soldiers would fight hard and with much courage, they did not have enough supplies or food.

Some of the soldiers had to wait for their comrades to die on the front lines and then they would sneak up and get their weapons. Thirdly, the Russian leader at the time, Tsar Nicholas II, was a very weak ruler. In fact, he let his wife do most of the ruling. Unfortunately, she was influenced by a very strange character named Rasputin. The tsar's wife trusted this Siberian holy man because she thought he was curing her seriously ill fifteen year old boy. Eventually others thought Rasputin was mean and insane.

The tsar's nobles assassinated (killed) Rasputin. But Nicholas II had not been farsighted enough to save his throne. His government was crumbling under his feet. In early 1917, he tried to restore his power. But now even his own officials would not heed his word.

It is at this point, that the first of a series of revolutions take place in Russia. In March, 1917, Alexander Kerensky led a group of followers and they successfully challenged the tsar for his power. On March 15, 1917, the tsar abdicated (gave up) his leadership and a new government led by Kerensky was set up.

What did this new government promise the people? It offered them voting rights and said they would reform some of the corrupt ways of the tsar. However, most of the people were really interested in things directly related to themselves. They wanted things like more land and food. They did not want any more lean years. Consequently, the situation was ripe for another revolution.

The man who took advantage of this opportunity was Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, (1870 - 1924). In fact, if you went to Moscow today, you could see Lenin lying in a coffin near the famous "Red Square". What did Lenin do to gain this fame and attention?

Lenin was born the son of a high school teacher and was a good student. Later on he studied law at the university. However, his political activities and ideas got him dismissed from school. Once he was forced to leave, he joined a labor movement. Following this, he went to Siberia where he wrote about thirty books. Between 1900 and 1917, Lenin moved around Europe. Once the tsar was overthrown in 1917, he returned to Russia. Once there, he plotted with another man named Leon Trotsky to overthrow the provisional government of Kerensky.

Lenin and Trotsky led a group of people known as Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks promised the people "peace, bread, and land." This pledge was much more appealing than talk of reform and voting rights. As a result, the Bolsheviks gained support and on November 7, 1917, the Russian government was seized by the Bolsheviks. Lenin became the leader of this new Bolshevik government. Lenin believed in much of the writing of Karl Marx and he wanted to make Russia a Communist country. Lenin is also known as the "Father of the Russian Revolution."

Unfortunately for Lenin, there were many people in Russia who were still opposed to him and the Bolsheviks. Can you figure out who might be some of his enemies? The poor people had nothing to worry about. It was the rich Russians who were concerned. Under Communism, they stood to lose much of their power. As a result, there was opposition from the aristocracy, factory owners and landlords. Since Communism set about to abolish religion, the clergy was also going to fight against Communism and the Bolsheviks.

The above group of people found enough support to form a group known as the "White" army to fight against the "Reds" or Bolsheviks. Soon there was a full scale civil war going on in Russia. The fighting was bloody and cruel. But by 1921, the White armies had been totally defeated. Now Lenin was in total control. At last, he could experiment with turning Russia into a Communist state. The tsar had been put to death and millions fled Russia. Anyone who opposed Lenin would have to pay the price. By 1922, it is estimated that 50,000 enemies of Lenin had been executed (killed).

So how did Lenin influence Communism in Russia. The first thing that Lenin found out was that he had to make some adjustments to the communistic theory. In 1921, Russia had suffered a famine (food shortage) and a cholera epidemic (disease)

caused the death of nearly five million people. Marx's idea about economic organization was producing disastrous results. The factories were turning out much less than they were in 1913. Farmers were willing to grow only as much as they needed for themselves. Trade within Russia and with foreign countries also dwindled to a standstill.

In order to try to clear up this situation, Lenin decided to back off "hard line" Communism. He introduced something called the "New Economic Policy" (N.E.P.). The government still owned large factories, systems of transportation, banking and foreign trade. However, they did allow some small businesses to be owned privately and also allowed peasants to buy and sell land and hire labor. As we have already read, private ownership of any kind is not allowed under true Communism. But Lenin was flexible enough and wise enough to see the light. He knew that he would have to make these concessions to aid the economic recovery of his country. Lenin was not demeaning Communism. Instead, he was simply making adjustments to fit the given time and place.

These changes that Lenin had made helped the economic recovery of Russia. However, the stress took a toll on Lenin. In 1922, he suffered the first of a series of strokes. By 1924, he was dead. As you remember, the man who helped him in the early days of the revolution was Trotsky. He would appear to be the likely follower or heir to Lenin. But he was challenged by another Bolshevik named Joseph Stalin. Stalin had done work within the Communist party system and had put people in the right spots to support him. A power struggle followed and Stalin came out the winner. He had Trotsky exiled from Russia and finally murdered in Mexico.

There were classes of people like factory managers who were being paid extremely well for their work. These people along with others were forming a class of their own above the ordinary people. There was also private ownership which is against Marxist principles.

What kind of a man was Joseph Stalin? He was a small, shrewd appearing man. He was one of four children. At an early age, his mother wanted him to become a priest (before Lenin took over, of course.) and he did enter a seminary, but was soon expelled for reading revolutionary literature. He continued to get into trouble and soon he was forced to go to Siberia like many of his other radical friends. Once Lenin took over the Russian government, Stalin came back and started working for the Communist party. By 1922, he was Lenin's "hatchet" man. Consequently, he was prepared to wipe out anyone in his way after Lenin had died.

Stalin had the insight to make several contributions to Communism and the growth of Russia. Probably the most important was the beginning of the "Five Year Plans". Each plan designed the entire economic life of the countries. Goals were set for each industry.

For example, the amount of power to be produced and the amount of steel to be made was laid out on paper. Even though all the goals were not met, it did much to help Russia become an industrialized country.

By 1939, Russia was truly a totalitarian country. A totalitarian government controls every part of its citizen's lives - social, economic, and political. It has, in effect, total control of everything in the country.

Nevertheless, Stalin had not set up a government and society as Marx had seen it. You may recall that Marx thought that eventually there would be a classless society. This was not the case in Russia now or then. Never in history has one country won so much in such a short period of time.

Now that we have seen how the communist state in Russia came into existence, lets look at the strengths and weaknesses in Communism today.

An obvious strength of Communism is its ability to rapidly industrialize a country. We've seen that goals are set and nothing will get in their way. Consequently, consumer products such as stoves, toasters, mixers, etc. are very difficult to buy. Big industry has top billing.

Another major area of Russian strength is the area of education and science. The Russian launching of the "Sputnik" in 1957 opened many American eyes to the advances that were being made by the Communists.

Today the Russians are training more doctors, engineers and scientists than the United States. Students in Russia must constantly pass examinations to keep the privilege of going to school or college.

They know that if they graduate from a college as a doctor or engineer, they will make a much better living. As a result, there is a lot of pressure and competition in the Soviet (Russian) educational system.

A final strength of Communism has to be its military power. The Russian government spends a tremendous amount of income on military weapons and research. Since 1939, Russia has taken over much territory and about 125,000,000 more people through military takeovers of other lands.

On the other hand, the communist system has several weaknesses. One source of weakness is the stress on conformity. It attempts to make all leaders and people think alike. The result is "yes" men and women who do not think or use creativity. There is also censorship or control on writings and what may be heard or seen.

Rock n' Roll was considered a bad influence and banned. There are mass arrests of people who do not follow the party line. People cannot move into certain cities which the police feel are over-crowded. Anyone who has the rare opportunity to leave the country, has to leave a hostage behind such as a wife, or children.

Communist policy today has gradually changed to meet the new conditions in the world today. After Stalin died, a man named Nikita Khruschev took over. He shook up the free world by making the statement that communism would bury us all. Since that time, the present leaders of Russia, Breshnev and Kosygin, have taken a "softer" line.

They still fervently believe in Communism but are going about spreading their ideas in a more quiet way. They know, that in our age of nuclear weapons, any type of all out war would be fatal for the entire world. Threats that could not be backed up would be out of order.

In summary then, we can see that the seed of Communism started with Karl Marx and was planted in the Russian Revolution of 1917. Sixty years later, we have a totalitarian government which is one of the strongest powers in the world.

Marx might not identify with the Russian form of Communism today, but the Russian government is still doing its best to control the social, economic and political life of its people.

FASCISM

A. Sounds Introduced
   1. rain - ain
   2. took - ook

B. Vocabulary

1.	surfaced	11.	rallies
2.	dictatorship	12.	frustration
3.	appealed	13.	hostility
4.	maintaining	14.	intimidate
5.	classic	15.	dissolve
6.	traitors	16.	downfall
7.	protect	17.	crucial
8.	spellbind	18.	despair
9.	strain	19.	preserve
10.	opposition	20.	characteristics

Another type of totalitarian government surfaced in the twentieth century. This type of political system was known as Fascism. It also did away with many individual freedoms and attempted to set up a one party rule or dictatorship. You are probably asking yourself, what is the main difference between this form of totalitarian government and Communism?

There are many differences between these two "isms". Communism, as we saw, was successful in a poor underdeveloped country where there was little industry. Fascism, on the other hand, has appealed to countries that already are industrialized and have had some amount of democracy. So in a simple way, you may say that Communism appeals to poor, underdeveloped countries, while Fascism draws support from industrially more advanced countries that are having problems or conflicts.

Often times, rich groups, like industry owners and landlords, will support fascist movements with the idea of silencing their opposition and maintaining their goods. They often receive support from the lower middle class of people who were afraid of big business and strong labor unions. The Fascist leader then uses both these groups and their frustrations to sustain his power. There are two classic examples of modern day Fascism. We will look at one in Italy and the other in Germany.

Italy was ripe for Fascism after World War I. The economic situation was bad and the people were drained. Factory workers were staging labor strikes, returning army officers were being treated like traitors, and property owners felt that the government was not protecting their interests.

People were looking for some type of cure all. The man who stepped on the scene was Benito Mussolini. Mussolini came from an ordinary family, his father being a blacksmith, and mother, a school teacher. As he grew up, some of his theories shook people up and eventually landed him in jail.

Later he joined the army and fought in World War I. After the war, he wrote that the war had been one of Italy's greatest glories. He did not have the brains of Lenin, but he could spellbind a crowd with his speeches. He gained supporters. Their uniform was the black shirt.

By 1922, the "Black Shirts" under Mussolini had, with little strain, taken over power in Italy. Once the fascist party took over Italy, all oppositions was destroyed. A secret police was formed and the newspapers and books were watched over carefully. Labor unions and strikes were forbidden.

Mussolini was in full control. Even though the mass of people were poor, the uniforms, parades, and rallies still seemed to appeal to them. Mussolini took the frustrations, hostility and hatred of his people and directed it against other countries.

Mussolini managed to keep his power intact until his military machine began to crumble in World War II. The economic situation in Italy was bad again and the Italian people now took out their frustrations and hatred on their "DUCE" (leader).

In April, 1945, Mussolini was executed, then hung from a large post in Milan. The Italian people had suffered much pain and had finally seen him as a crook. This was the end of the fascist experiment in Italy.

Another fascist government that is probably more well known is that of Germany in the 1930's and 1940's under Adolf Hitler. His nazi government satisfied some of the same needs in Germany as did Mussolini's in Italy.

Germany in the 1920's also had many economic difficulties and many dissatisfied people. They were looking for some solution to their problems. Germany had some industrialization and had seen some freedom under the Weimar Republic, but now they were panicing for a quick answer.

Adolf Hitler was born in Austria, and very early in life he became an orphan. As he grew up, he developed many hatreds, one of them being of the Jewish people. He eventually joined the German army and fought in World War I.

In 1923, he tried to follow Mussolini's example in Italy and take over the German government. It was a failure and he was put in jail. Here he wrote a book called Mein Kampf ("My Struggles") which presented his ideas about the past and future for Germany.

After his release from jail, he became a leader of a secret society nicknamed the "NAZIS". He maintained an army of "Brown Shirts" to protect his members and intimidate others. As the Nazis grew in strength and number, they became more powerful in the Weimar government.

Eventually the nazi party controlled the majority of power in the Weimar government. Their next step was to dissolve the Weimar Replublic and form the "Third Reich" (Third Empire). Hitler declared dictatorial powers and the swastika (nazi party flag) flew over Germany.

Hitler attempted to have total control (totalitarianism) over his people. Anyone suspected of being disloyal was usually a victim of the Gestapo (secret police). Hitler also believed in the "pure German" and he punished the Jewish people every chance he could get.

He, like Mussolini, had the German people take their frustrations and hostilities out on other people. He even had hundreds of his own nazi party members killed because he "suspected" they were disloyal.

As you may already know, Germany under Hitler became a very powerful country. In the late 1930's Hitler and his army plowed over much of Europe. His position looked very good throughout much of World War II. Then as with Mussolini, his downfall came. His army began experiencing defeats.

The German people were no longer "hooked" on Hitler's promises to them. He had lost the confidence and support of the people and the army, two crucial supports for any fascist leader.

In despair, Hitler went to a bunker and committed suicide. This ended the fascist experiment in Germany. Since Fascism can appeal to industrially advanced countries and those countries who have had democracy and freedom of choice, it is still like Communism, a real threat to the free world today.

Consequently, it is important for anyone who wants to preserve their democratic life-style to know and be able to identify the characteristics and ideas of communist and fascist governments.

ADOLF HITLER 1889 - 1945

A. Sounds Introduced
1. ould - would, could, should
2. y - yet
3. ean - mean
4. ight - right, fight, fighting
5. oat - scapegoat
6. ain - remained, painful
7. ook - took, crook

B. Vocabulary

1.	brief	11.	suspicious	21.	savior
2.	tremendous	12.	supremacy		
3.	slums	13.	enlisted		
4.	resentful	14.	career		
5.	uneventful	15.	hoarse		
6.	challenge	16.	opposed		
7.	authority	17.	shallow		
8.	outraged	18.	bluffing		
9.	attractive	19.	brutal		
10.	notable	20.	urged		

Very few men have made such a tremendous impact on the world, in such a short period of time, as did Adolf Hitler. Only a handful of people in the United States, regardless of their education, have not heard of Adolf Hitler. What made this man so famous and so hated in such a brief span of time?

Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in a little town named Braunan, (Austria). Adolf was the third child of the third marriage for his father. Hitler had four other brothers and sisters, but three of them died at an early age. It appears that he was only close to Angela Ranbal, his half sister, the daughter of his father's second marriage. She was one of the few girls that he ever liked.

Growing up must have been very difficult for Hitler. He was raised in the slums of Vienna, Austria. When he finally started school at the age of six, he was pretty much like the other boys in the class. However, he was very resentful of his father who, at the age of sixty, was more like a grandfather.

School was uneventful for him until the age of eleven. At this time, he began to challenge authority by saying he would not become a civil servant (government worker). He wanted to be a painter instead. His father was outraged at the idea of his son being an artist. But Hitler stuck to his guns and won out. He continued to cause trouble for the school and he finally dropped out of school at the age of 16. By this time, his father had died and he was living by himself.

Hitler avoided work of any kind. He was able to make a little money by painting post cards and selling them. Most of his post card paintings were pictures of landscapes and buildings of Vienna. He also picked up a few cents by shoveling snow, carrying suitcases at a railway station, beating carpets and sometimes begging from drunken men. It was not beyond Hitler to sleep in alleys or on park benches. He would wait in line for a cup of free soup or maybe, if he was lucky, a piece of horsemeat or a crust of bread.

As a person, Hitler was not very attractive. Probably his most notable characteristic was his little moustache and the lock of hair slanted across his forehead. At one point, around the age of twenty-one, Hitler decided to grow a beard. Someone described him as looking like some creature from another world.

Besides lacking looks, Hitler had few friends. It seems that he was suspicious of everyone. This suspicion soon turned into a hatred and distrust which was eventually directed toward all Jewish people. This was a turning point in his life. Evidently Hitler had gotton hold of a book which spoke of a race of conquerors called "Aryans" who had taken over Europe centuries ago. Scientists today know that this Aryan race never existed. But the Aryan tale gave Hitler an idea. The Germans, he decided, were a "master race", a race of conquerors. Accordingly, all other races were inferior. The thought that Germany would someday be master of the world made him feel good even though Hitler was Austrian. If Hitler saw the Germans on the top of the world, he viewed the Jews as the lowest race of people. He blamed all the problems of Germany on them. We will soon see how Hitler takes his revenge and anger out on these people. But we must first examine how he rose to a position of power.

As we have already seen, Hitler bummed around for several years after he dropped out of school. He loved to argue politics in local taverns even though he never smoke or drank. Hitler continued to speak of German supremacy and re-arming Germany. Consequently, he was happy when World War I started in 1914 and he enlisted in the Army. Hitler's career as a soldier was not that spectacular. He was only a corporal when the war ended. Yet, he learned much during the war. For one thing, he was told to investigate the German Worker's party which was suspected of being Communistic. Hitler watched the group and reported back to the German officials that they were not Communist. Hitler soon joined this party, which became known as the Nazis.

His enthusiasm for the Nazi party grew. It was not that he learned how much he could really enjoy public speaking. He also found that he was very good at it. He literally loved to shout himself hoarse. What he said did not matter as much as how he said it. Hitler soon learned that people preferred to hear lies, the bigger the better. Many times he would repeat a lie so much that he actually started to believe it himself. He once said, "The people have no idea how much they must be fooled".

Hitler was intelligent enough to know that his support should come from the common people. As a result, he shouted to them that he wanted to help them by taking the land away from the big landowners and turning the big businesses over to the government who would share the profits with the people. He really had no intention of carrying out these promises but he knew this was what the people wanted to hear. Soon thousands of people were listening to him. They felt Hitler had the right answers. People liked him, especially the unemployed ex-soldiers. They were miserable and were looking for someone to take their anger out on. When Hitler blamed the Jews, these people were willing to support him. The German people loved to hear Hitler speak of Germany as being the master of the world.

Money started to come in from supporters. He soon put out a newspaper and bought uniforms for his followers. They wore brown shirts. Eventually some hotheaded army officer encouraged Hitler to fight against the German republic. As a result, in 1923 some of his followers met in a Munich beer hall and then went out and attempted to take over some government buildings.

Hitler's "beer hall revolt" was a big failure. Many observers thought his career was over. He was sentenced to jail for five years. It was here that he wrote a book, MEIN KAMPF (My Struggles) in which he told the story of his life, his supporters were working in the outside world.

Hitler only remained in jail for eight months. By the time he was released, the Nazi party had millions of followers. The followers were very unhappy with the German government. Germany, in the late 1920's, was suffering big economic problems. Paper money had lost all its value. A man could have two pockets full of money, and not be able to buy a bowl of soup. Naturally, Hitler and the Nazi party promised to correct this situation. The Jewish people became the scapegoats. They blamed these economic problems on the Jews. He simply said, "Trust me and all will be well."

Hitler now had to figure out a way to take control of Germany. He did not want to take over by physical force. He wanted to make it look legal. He finally came up with a plan. The Nazis started a big fire in the great hall of the Reichstag (German Congress) and they blamed the fire on the Communists. The Nazis claimed this was a Communist revolutionary plot. Thousands of Communists were arrested. The German people were frightened so much that when elections were held, the Nazis received about half of all the votes cast. Hitler now had control of the Reichstag and they soon voted to make him dictator or "Der Fuehrer". Now Hitler really went to work. All political parties, except the Nazis, were outlawed.

Anyone opposed to Hitler fled the country. They knew what would happen if Hitler caught them. The secret police force, the Gestapo, was formed to do all the mean, dirty work. Hitler even rounded up dissatisfied Nazi party members and had them killed.

Meanwhile, much of Hitler's energy went into building up the German army and air force. He knew that he would have to score some military victories to convince the people of Germany's greatness. The first and easiest target turned out to be Austria. They had a very weak army and Hitler's army had no problems. This shallow victory really excited the German people. The next stop was Czechoslovakia. They had little chance against Germany by themselves. The Czechs asked Britain and France for help, but they were turned down.

By now, many European countries were becoming fearful of Hitler. Britain and France told Hitler that if he tried to take over Poland, they would go to war against him. Hitler was not afraid now. He figured France and Britain were just bluffing. Hitler went ahead in 1939 and took over Poland. France and Britain held true to their word and declared war on Germany. World War II had officially started and Hitler had his sights on taking over the world now.

It was not long before Hitler had taken over France. His military success was in many ways helped by his "Blitzkreig" or lightening attack. He usually caught his enemies by surprise and they were destroyed before they had a chance to recover. He also used fear tactics.

No one would dare speak out against Hitler. If they did, they would end up murdered or put in concentration camps. The majority of people in these concentration camps were Jews.

It still seems unthinkable today when one hears of the brutal, painful, tales of the concentration camps. Most historians agree that nearly 6,000,000 Jews met their death in these camps. However, their deaths were usually the climax to a long series of tortures and experiments.

The Nazis tried all kinds of medical tests using the Jews as guinea pigs. They would inject gasoline into people's veins to see what would happen. They would also cut off arms and legs of males and try to transplant them to females. Both men and women were put in freezing tanks of water to see how long they could stand it before they died.

Needless to say, the conditions in the camps were horrible. Sleeping quarters were crowded and food was always scarce. The people in the camps who were not murdered were living skeletons. At times, hundreds of people would be murdered at once. When this happened, there were huge ovens where the bodies were then burned. You can go to Germany today and see the ovens and the remains of these camps.

Even though it does not seem just, Hitler came close to winning the war. However, he was defeated by two big mistakes. In the first place, he attacked Russia in 1941 while he was still fighting England. He was now fighting a war on two fronts. The second mistake was made by Hitler's friend, Japan. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Pearl Harbor was a possession of the United States and as a result, the U.S. declared war on Japan and Germany. Three years later, American bombs were destroying Berlin, the capital of Germany.

Midway through World War II, the German people began to see through some of the "big lies" of Adolf Hitler. Hitler, however, was still strong enough to silence his opposition. Even some of the "Youth for Hitler" became distrustful of Mr. Hitler. Eventually, as we have seen, Hitler made a couple of mistakes and his power and cause started to slide away. His German army of the "supreme race" began to suffer defeats. Hitler pushed just that much harder. He urged his soldiers to die for the glory of Germany. Many deserted instead. They began to see him as a crook not a savior.

By 1945, Hitler knew that he had lost the war. He spent his last days living in a bunker with his mistress, Eva Braun. He was never very fond of women but finally decided to marry Eva. The very next day, both he and Eva committed suicide.

So ended the career of a man who started with very little and ended up almost forming an empire. Hitler, as we have read, had no conscience. He would lie, murder, or do whatever was necessary to gain power. One historian sums it up nicely by saying, "The gutter has risen and then fell."

SOCIALISM

A. Sounds Introduced
   1. walk - alk
   2. farm - arm
   3. third - ird

B. Vocabulary
   1. linked
   2. monopolies
   3. vital
   4. prohibit
   5. redistribution
   6. profits
   7. benefits
   8. welfare
   9. incompatible
   10. tactics
   11. complacency
   12. charming

The first two "isms" that we have studied are both examples of totalitarian governments. As we have seen, both Communism and Fascism attempt to control as much of the individual's life as possible. Both of these political systems take away the freedom of choice from the individual and all power rests in a single person or a single party.

We are now going to look at two other "isms" that are much more acceptable to the free world. The first one we will examine will be Socialism. Socialism is often linked with Communism and as a result, there is much confusion as to exactly what Socialism stands for.

One of the most fundamental ideas of Socialism is to distribute the wealth of a country more evenly. The socialist government, like for example, Great Britain, will take over and use certain industries or services. Some of the industries may be monopolies such as gas or telephone and may be taking advantage of the consumer.

Other industries may be important to the country, but not profitable for a private company to operate. The British coal industry would be a good example of this point. Other industries seem so vital or important to the country, that the government takes them over for the good and protection of the people. The British government took over the iron and steel industry on these grounds.

The key point to understand is that the government does not attempt to run or control all the major industries. The socialist government does not prohibit private ownership. Instead, it promotes cooperation instead of competition.

What happens to the profits that are made from the government or publically owned industries? As mentioned earlier, this is where the idea of redistribution of wealth comes in. The socialist would reason that if a private individual or group of people owned the industry, instead of the government, it may harm the population. A few people would get very wealthy and the mass of people would remain poor.

Consequently, the profits from the publically owned businesses are shared with the people of the country in the form of things like free education, medical care and medicines. In the United States, we call some of these benefits welfare. Only certain qualified people are allowed to share them. However, in a socialist country, everyone shares the benefits, regardless of their income.

Besides concentrating on a more fair distribution of wealth, socialist governments also work on other social and economic reforms. They try to provide more opportunity for the lower class of people. They try to keep full employment for the country. A third aim is working on tearing down

slum areas and building new housing areas. As stated before, they are attempting to rebuild a society on co-operation rather than competition, incentive, and profit.

It should be apparent that Socialism does respect the rights and welfare of the individual. In fact, the successful socialist movements have grown up only in nations with strong democratic traditions like Great Britain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian countries. All of these countries have constitutional procedures. They have rules and laws to follow. The political leaders seek power from ballots not bullets.

As you can see, Communism and Socialism are very different and in fact incompatible. Some people confuse state ownership of certain industries as Communism. This idea is wrong. Under Communism, the state controls the entire economy. Under Socialism, a select few industries are run by the state and the profits are returned to the people in the way of benefits.

Communism does not respect the rights of the individual. There is no democratic process. Socialism, on the other hand, upholds and protects the rights of the individual through constitutional procedures. The communists force their programs upon the people while socialists believe in peaceful tactics.

Unfortunately, there are some drawbacks to Socialism. It may sound charming to some people but it can only get off the ground successfully in countries that have some background in democratic tradition. This fact leaves the developing countries of the world as unlikely candidates for Socialism.

It has also been argued that Socialism breeds complacency. It discourages competition and makes many individuals feel that it is no longer necessary to work hard to get ahead. The state or "Big Brother" will take care of you. And those individuals who do continue to work hard are alarmed to find that they pay much of their money in the form of taxes to support the "other people". An example of this problem can be found in Great Britain today.

In summary then, Socialism is a democratic form of government that attempts to distribute the wealth of the country as fairly as possible. It attempts to improve the life of the people through social and economic reforms.

CAPITALISM

A. Sounds Introduced
   1. turn - urn
   2. snow - ow
   3. bought - ought

B. Vocabulary
   1. ingredients
   2. motive
   3. venture
   4. competition
   5. respect
   6. realization
   7. responsibility
   8. guaranteed
   9. employee
   10. vote

The last political system and "isms" that we ought to look at is Capitalism. Capitalism or what is sometimes called "Classical Capitalism" is really an economic system. It allows the individual or capitalist to go out in the business world, gain knowledge, and work as hard and earn as much as he or she can. In a capitalist system, ownership is in private hands, not that of the state. Under classical Capitalism, the government does not interfere in the business world at all. It was in such a way, that some men in the United States, like John Rockerfeller and Andrew Carnegie, started their journey to riches.

There are some other ideas behind the capitalist system. One of them is the profit motive. It is held that any capitalist (businessman) should seek to make a profit. A man is often considered a success if he can turn a failing business venture into a success. Another idea is competition. If the competition has a better product, you may be mowed down. There is also the idea of the "law of supply and demand". This idea suggests that the only businesses that are started and actually survive, are those that are necessary or in demand by the people of the state or country. For example, surf board sales would flop in Nebraska but grow on the Southern coast of California.

The thought should strike you that, Capitalism respects the right of the individual. It allows him or her to "do their own thing" with the realization that they must take full responsibility for themselves. Under Capitalism the individual is given freedom of choice. He or she may decide what to buy or sell and for how much, and whether to be an employee or a boss. It is simply up to the individual person and the goals he or she has set for themselves.

Needless to say, the ideas of Capitalism flourish under a democratic system. Since Capitalism and democracy often go hand in hand, let's look at some of the basic ideas found in democracy. How would you describe democracy? The word democracy comes from the Greeks and means "people rule". Under a democracy, there is a basic freedom from fear. The individual has rights backed by the law which must be respected. These rights may have to be fought for as the Americans did in 1776. The individual has a say, through the ballot, in who rules the country and what laws are passed. The individual is guaranteed things like freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of religion. One may come or go as he or she pleases. Under a democratic system, the individual, not state, plays the most important role.

Unfortunately, the strength of democracy, the individual, is also its weakness. An individual cannot just take from the system. By only taking, people take some of the glow from democracy. Many people in democratic countries today have given up getting involved in helping elect the politicians and voting on laws and issues. The reason they give for their lack of interest is that there are so many people, that one vote will not count anyway. Unfortunately, this way of thinking is wrong and it is a major weakness of democracy. Democracy will not really work unless the people do get involved. We all are rowing the same ship of state.

CONCLUSION

A. Sounds Introduced
   1. hangs - angs

B. Vocabulary
   1. premium
   2. selection
   3. potential
   4. traditions

In conclusion, we can see that Capitalism is an economic system that places the responsibility on the individual, just as the democratic system does. It is unlike the other "isms" that we have examined in that there are no state owned industries. The rights and freedom of its individuals are placed at a premium under the capitalist system.

As stated in the beginning of this unit, political systems are designed and set up to govern the people. We have just examined four political systems. There are examples of each of these political systems in our modern world today. It is very difficult to gang up and judge one system as being totally right and the other completely wrong. The stage of development of a country, the educational background of the people, the natural resources a region has, and its traditions in government or ruling procedures, all play a role in a country's selection and potential success of a given political system

APPENDIX READINGS

WITH QUESTIONS & EXERCISES

PEACE, BREAD, AND LAND

A. Vocabulary

1. sighed
2. shrugged
3. rallied
4. ignored
5. nobility
6. revolutionary
7. transferring
8. sneered
9. interrupted

The strikes and riots of 1905 - 1906 did little to change Russia's government. Nicholas continued to ignore cries for reform. Those who dared to criticize him were either imprisoned or forced to leave the country. Most Russians sighed and shrugged their shoulders. They quietly continued to live out their lives under the direction of the badly run and corrupt Russian government.

World War I, for the moment, helped the Russian people to forget their problems. Eager to protect Russia from her enemies, the people rallied to the support of their government. But defeats at the front and food shortages at home soon caused many Russians to complain bitterly against the czar and his government. Soldiers began to desert the army and crowds began to riot in the cities. An order from Nicholas to fire on the rioters was ignored, and he suddenly found himself helpless and abandoned. On March 15, 1917, Nicholas II gave up his throne.

As our story opens, the new Russian government is facing grave problems. The riots are worse than ever. Small, well-organized groups are trying to take over the government. The world war continues, and Russians suffer even greater losses at the hands of the Germans. The situation is desperate. Russia's very survival seems to be at stake.

Two men, both revolutionaries, are discussing their plans for Russia's future. Both agree that the czar and the nobility must be prevented from returning to power. They disagree on practically everything else. Both men will taste power. One will go on to change the course of Russian history. The other will live out his years in exile, lonely and forgotten.

See if you understand the reasons for one man's success and the other man's failure.

Petrograd, 1917

"And you call yourself a revolutionary", muttered Vladimir Ulyanov, better known as Lenin (LEN-in). He was talking to the government leader, Alexander Kerensky (kee-REN-sky).

"Of course, I'm a revolutionary", answered Kerensky. "I am transferring the government from the czar to the people. I am saying good-by to 300 years of misery and corruption. What else am I if not a revolutionary?"

"A fool", replied Lenin. "You are a fool who has come to believe in his own daydreams".

Kerensky reddened. "Stop talking down to me as if I were one of your schoolboy followers. While you make speeches on street corners, I am putting together a government that will give hope to Russians who love freedom. It will take time. Democracy moves slowly. But one day the people will understand what I have done for them. Then they will return the love I feel for them".

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"Love you?" asked Lenin. "They hate you! Fool that you are, you don't even understand why."

"Tell me why," said Kerensky.

"They hate you because you are a good man, and they understand only cruelty."

"I don't understand."

"Of course you don't, Kerensky. You don't understand that the people want to see this war over now. They want land and bread now. They don't care how they get these things. Our people are filled with hatred. They hate the rich, the educated, and the privileged. They hate all those who make them feel stupid, clumsy, and inferior. They will follow a man shrewd enough to punish those they hate and strong enough to make them fear him."

"No, no!" shouted Kerensky. "The Russian people aren't like that at all! They are brave people who will fight on until this war is over. They will get their land and their bread. But they know that these things take time. They understand that these things must be done properly. They must be done democratically. The people understand, and they will wait."

"Bah!" sneered Lenin. "You lead the Russian people but you don't understand them at all. Your picture of them is a lie!"

"But what of your picture of the Russian people?", interrupted Kerensky. "What an ugly picture you paint of them. I am beginning to think that you hate the Russian people!"

"I am above love and hate," sneered Lenin. "Russia is about to give birth to a great revolution. I am the doctor who will deliver this child. I will do anything, use any trick, sacrifice any person--to see the revolution live and grow strong!"

"You're mad!" cried Kerensky.

"Perhaps", answered Lenin. "Perhaps great visions come only to those who are a little mad. Maybe that's why we succeed where others fail!"

"Take care, Lenin", warned Kerensky. "You may become the thing you claim to hate the most!"

"And what is that?"

"The next Russian czar!"

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOOKLET

EXERCISES

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Write a T for each statement that is true, F for each statement that is false, and N for each statement that is not mentioned in the story.

1. The strikes of 1905-1906 did much to change things in Russia.
2. The Russian people wanted a democratic government.
3. Things continued just as before the strikes of 1905-1906.
4. World War I helped to force Nicholas II to give up his throne.
6. The Russians continued to fight the war after Nicholas II gave up his throne.
7. Kerensky and Lenin had a great deal in common.
8. Lenin secretly wanted to be the next Russian czar.

B. Tell which statements Lenin would have agreed with.

1. The Russians should fight on until they win the war.
2. The Russian people must be given land and food immediately.
3. The Russian people can wait for land and bread.
4. The new Russian government must become democratic.
5. The revolution must succeed, no matter what the cost.
6. The Russian people are filled with hatred.
7. The Russian people are sick of the war.

C. Imagine that you were living in Russia in 1917. The czar had just given up the throne. Lenin and Kerensky were fighting for power. Which man would you have followed? Why?

THE BALANCE SHEET

A. Vocabulary

1. guilty
2. nightmare
3. curse
4. infection
5. humanity

Many people continue to speak out against the Soviet Union. They say that it's leaders are guilty of committing many crimes against the Russian people. Yet others speak in favor of the Russian experiment. Some say that while Russia is old, the Soviet Union is still very young. In time, they claim, the Soviet Union will become all that the Russian people hope for.

Otners remember what Russia was like before the Communist revolution. For them, the Soviet Union is a great improvement over the Russia ruled by the czars.

In our story an old man and his grandson are discussing the Soviet Union. Both are Russian born, yet each has his own picture of the Soviet Union.

Leningrad, 1975

"No Grandpa, I don't agree. I don't agree that the Russia of today is a hundred times better than the Russia of yesterday. How can a nightmare be an improvement over anything?"

"Ah, Leo, you are 30 years old and still a child", said Grandpa. "How can you speak of nightmares when you have never really lived through one?"

"Grandpa, millions have been killed and tortured in this country. Any why? Just because they did not agree with the government. The government decides what I read, what I wear, where I travel - indeed, whether I travel at all. Even my education was decided for me by the government. If this life is not a nightmare, at least agree it is a very bad dream."

"I have lived through a different bad dream", answered Grandpa. "I remember a different Russia. In that Russia, people fought over scraps of bread. We worked long hours for wages that barely kept us alive. People in that day would have kissed the hands and feet of the same government leaders you speak against."

Leo looked at his grandfather carefully. "You curse the czars even though they are no longer in power. Yet you would kiss the hands and feet of leaders who are just like them. I don't understand you, Grandpa."

"Leo, the czars were driving Russia to its grave. The Communists have brought life back to our people. Today we have jobs; our children go to school. We are well fed and our government takes good care of us. People once laughed at Russians. Today we are one of the world's most powerful people. I am not ashamed to say that the Communists have done a great deal for Russia."

"But what of the price that we have been forced to pay?", protested Leo. "The killings and the Siberian death camps and the loss of liberty."

"Bah!" said grandpa impatiently. "Our country was diseased. The Communists cut out the infection. Can you eat freedom? Can you wear liberty? If we have been asked to pay a price for the good things we have today, I say that we have received good value."

Leo muttered, "Humanity does not live by bread alone!"

His grandfather laughed.

EXERCISES

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Tell which of the statements are true.

1. Every Russian speaks out freely against the government of the Soviet Union.
2. Some people believe that the Soviet Union today is a great improvement over the Russia ruled by the czars.
3. Millions of people in the Soviet Union have been killed and tortured.
4. The Soviet government keeps its people under tight control.
5. The Russian people are better fed today than they were in czarist Russia.
6. The Soviet Union gives liberty to all of its people.
7. Leo spoke highly of the Soviet Union.
8. Grandpa prefers life in the Soviet Union to life in czarist Russia.

B. Decide who made or might have made the remarks that follow. Write L for each statement that Leo made or might have made and G for each statement that Grandpa made or might have made.

1. Life in the Soviet Union is a nightmare.
2. The Soviet government decides when and where people may travel.
3. In old Russia, people fought over scraps of bread.
4. Thanks to the Communists, the Soviet Union today is one of the world's most powerful nations.
5. The Soviet government takes good care of the people.
6. Millions of people have been killed and tortured because they disagreed with the government.
7. You cannot eat freedom or wear liberty.
8. Humanity does not live by bread alone.

EXERCISES (Cont.)

C. Imagine that Grandpa has been given permission to visit the United States. You have been asked to be his guide. What would you take him to see? How would he feel about the United States? Would the Soviet government want people like Leo, who opposes their government, to visit the United States? Explain.

BENITO MUSSOLINI

A. Vocabulary

1. strikebreaker
2. corridor
3. clever
4. grateful
5. impressed

The worker's takeover of factories led to confusion and even lower production. Most workers admitted their mistakes and agreed to give the factories back to their owners. But the property owners had been frightened by this idea. From now on, they would keep their property.

Out of the ashes of confusion would arise a man whose drive to power could not be stopped. His name was Benito Mussolini (mus-soh-Lee-nee).

Ask yourself how Mussolini will come to power. Should the factory owners have supported him? Does he have the answers to Italy's problems?

Rome, 1923

You are Benito Mussolini, and you are about to become the most powerful man in Italy. You have worked hard to become somebody. You have been a teacher, a newspaperman, a soldier, and a political leader. Life for you has been hard but interesting.

You are no stranger to violence. You have seen men killed in battle and you yourself were wounded in the great war (World War I). As a young man, you got involved in several fights and once threatened a man with a knife. You also have a big mouth and you have spent time in jail because of this fact.

People are not sure what you stand for. You spoke out against the great war when it first began. Later you were thrown out of the Socialist party for speaking in favor of the war. You claim to be in favor of improving working conditions. Yet you have hired yourself out many times as a strikebreaker.

While others may be confused by your actions, you know exactly what you want; power! You will take any avenue that leads you through the corridors of power, up to the very top.

You are clever enough to know that frightened and confused Italians respect strength and force. This is why you have organized a group that you call the Fascist party. You dress these men up in black shirts and use them to beat up your enemies.

Sometimes your men get carried away and force caster oil down the throats of those who speak out against you. This always makes you laugh.

The Communist party has been very useful to you. Every time there is a strike or riot, you blame the Communists, and your men take to the streets and break workers' heads. The factory owners and landowners are grateful to you, and they see that a lot of money comes into your hands.

You have tried to take control of the government by legal means. The Italian people, for the most part, have not given you their support at the polls. You must find another way!

Now you have decided that the time is ripe to make your move. You will simply take over the government by force. The government is weak and the king will do anything to keep his throne. He has already promised you his complete cooperation. Many in the government hate you, and they can stop you only if they stand together. You know that this will not happen!

You have sent 40,000 men to march on Rome to force the government to give in to you. You take no chances - you wait safely in Milan. Should there be trouble, you are ready to make your escape to another country. You have nothing to worry about. The march will go smoothly and will accomplish its purpose. The people will be impressed and the government will be frightened. You will be invited to go to Rome and take control of the government.

You can't possibly know it, but your worst days are in front of you. But you are now about to become the most powerful man in Italy, and today belongs to you!

EXERCISES

Appendix Reading #3

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

A. Match each item in Column A with its answer in Column B.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
1. One result of the takeover of factories by the workers.	a. strikebreaking
2. The workers decided to do this after awhile.	b. Communist party
3. These people supported Mussolini.	c. lowered production
4. Mussolini once belonged to this political party.	d. power
5. Mussolini earned money by doing this.	e. Fascist party
6. This is what most attracted Mussolini.	f. give the factories back to the owners
7. Mussolini organized this political party.	g. Socialist party
8. This political party was blamed for strikes and riots.	h. property owners

B. Number the events below in the order in which they took place according to the story.

Mussolini was thrown out of the Socialist party.

World War I broke out.

Mussolini spoke out against World War I.

Mussolini's army marched on Rome.

Mussolini organized the Fascist party.

Factories were given back to the owners.

Property owners supported Mussolini.

C. Imagine that Mussolini is in the United States. He wants to become the leader of the American people. Write a step-by-step plan telling how Mussolini would probably try to take power. Would this plan succeed? Explain.